United Nations A/C.1/73/INF/4

General Assembly

Distr.: General
[illegible]ember 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
First Committee

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Note by the Secretariat

1. The attention of the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee) is drawn to the following provisions of General Assembly resolution 72/313, as highlighted in the first report of the General Committee (A/73/250), which was considered by the Assembly at its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2018:

(a) Paragraph 20 of the resolution, in which the General Assembly reaffirmed existing relevant mandates related to the improvement of the working methods of the Main Committees, including section C of the annex to resolution 58/316, paragraphs 7 to 13 of resolution 59/313, cluster III of the annex to resolution 60/286 and resolution 69/321, in particular paragraphs 16 and 17 thereof (see A/73/250, para. 13);

(b) Paragraph 22 of the resolution, in which the Assembly requested each Main Committee to further discuss its working methods at the beginning of every session, and invited the Chairs of the Main Committees to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly during the seventy-third session on any best practices and lessons learned with a view to improving working methods, as appropriate (ibid., para.);

(c) Paragraph 23 of the resolution, in which the Assembly requested the Chairs of the Main Committees to organize handover meetings between the outgoing and incoming bureaux to exchange views on outcomes and the upcoming agenda, and invited the Chairs of the Main Committees to present a report to their successors on best practices and lessons learned (ibid., para.);

(d) Paragraph 27 of the resolution, in which the Assembly emphasized that the General Assembly and its Main Committees, at the seventy-third session, in consultation with Member States, should continue their consideration of and make proposals for the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items on the agenda of the Assembly, including through the introduction of a sunset clause, with the clear consent of the sponsoring State or States, taking into account the relevant recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group (ibid., para. 9);

(e) Paragraph 33 of the resolution, in which the Assembly recalled rules 153 and 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and encouraged the Chairs

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of the Main Committees and the Secretary-General to ensure observance of those rules, within their respective mandates);

(f) The relevant provisions of the resolution concerning strict adherence by each speaker to the time limits in the Assembly and recommending the "all protocol observed" principle, especially when very limited time is available for debate (ibid., para. 40.);

(g) Paragraph 44 of the resolution, in which the Assembly reiterated its invitation to the President of the General Assembly and the Chairs of the Main Committees, in consultation with the General Committee and Member States, as well as to the Secretary-General, to enhance the coordination of the scheduling of meetings of the Assembly, including high-level meetings and high-level thematic debates, with a view to optimizing their interactivity, effectiveness, and distribution throughout the session (ibid., para. 30);

(h) Paragraph 48 of the resolution, in which the Assembly decided to establish the pattern for the rotation of the Chairs of the Main Committees for the forthcoming 10 sessions of the General Assembly, namely from the seventy-fourth to the eighty-third session. The rotation for the First Committee is contained in the annex to the present document;

(i) Paragraph 50 of the resolution, in which the Assembly encouraged Member States to seek gender balance in the distribution of Chairs of the Main Committees (ibid., para. 20);

(j) Paragraph 54 of the resolution, in which the Assembly encouraged Member States to make, to the extent possible, full use of the e-services provided by the Secretariat, in order to save costs, reduce the environmental impact and improve the distribution of documents, and, in that regard, requested the Secretariat to further improve, harmonize and, where appropriate, unify such services (ibid., para. 63).

2. At the same meeting, the General Assembly took note of:

(a) The fact that explanations of vote should be limited to 10 minutes; that, when the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee; and that delegations should exercise their right of reply at the end of the day whenever two meetings have been scheduled for that day and whenever such meetings are devoted to the consideration of the same item (ibid., para. 43);

(b) The fact that once the Assembly adopts a draft resolution or decision, it may no longer be co-sponsored. Likewise, when a Main Committee has adopted a proposal and recommends its adoption by the Assembly, this proposal may no longer be co-sponsored by a Member State (ibid., para. 48).

3. Also at the same meeting, the General Assembly approved the recommendation that points of order be limited to five minutes (ibid., para. 44).

Annex

Pattern for the rotation of the Chairs of the First Committee

Session	Regional group
Seventy-fourth	Latin American and Caribbean States
Seventy-fifth	Western European and other States
Seventy-sixth	African States
Seventy-seventh	Asia-Pacific States
Seventy-eighth	Eastern European States
Seventy-ninth	Latin American and Caribbean States
Eightieth	Western European and other States
Eighty-first	Asia-Pacific States
Eighty-second	Eastern European States
Eighty-third	African States